SIX SHEATHED CRUISERS

NAVY DEPARTMENT PREPARING FOR THEIR CONSTRUCTION.

161st Indiana Volunteers Expected to Reach Savannah, Ga., To-Morrow—Annual Distribution of Seeds.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The board of construction of the Navy Department to-day began consideration of the preliminary questions involved in the determination of the character and plans of the six sheathed cruisers provided for in the naval appropriation act. By the terms of that act no contract for the hulls of either the three armored battle ships or armored cruisers authorized by it can be entered on until after the armor shall have been contracted for. Until the result of the advertisement for bids for furnishing the armor, which was issued to-day, is known, the board will give no consideration to the heavier ships. The sheathed cruisers are to be of about 2,500 tons displacement, to carry the most powerful ordnance consistent with their class, to have the highest speed compatible with good cruising qualities and great radius of action. They are to cost, exclusive of armament, not exceeding $1,141,800 each. The cruisers will be of the improved Marblehead class, but will be of greater coal carrying capacity to insure greater radius of action. They will, however, develop about sixteen knots speed, as against eighteen knots, of which the Marblehead is capable.

* * *

The secretary of war, in concurrence with the secretary of the navy, has established and promulgated, in a formal order, regulations regarding the procedure in interchanging visits between naval officers and officials connected with the administration of the islands or groups of islands now occupied by the United States forces. The salute of a governor general shall be seventeen guns. All naval officials in command are required to make the first visit to the governor general, whatever may be the latter's military grade. Should the governor general be a civilian, the naval commander shall make the first visit both upon him and upon the army officer in chief command of the troops on the island, if the latter is of equal or superior grade.

* * *

The Census Office has called special attention to the extraordinarily large number of applications for places that have been filed and to the fact that for some time to come but a small skeleton corps, engaged for preliminary work, will be appointed. So far there have been, at a conservative estimate, 2,500 formal applications for office under the census, while with the letters and preliminary inquiries that have come in, the applications in sight may be figured at about 10,000. Until preparations can be made for the examination of those seeking employment, Director Merriam discourages the pressing of applications. The work now is being pushed largely to getting out the examination papers for the ordeal to which all applicants must be subjected.

* * *

The Department of Agriculture has issued a formal advertisement inviting proposals for furnishing field, flower and vegetable seeds to the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, alls bids to be filed not later than April 20. The seeds, together with all material necessary for their distribution, and all labor connected therewith, the necessary printing on seed packets, and the plan for conducting and carrying on the distribution work, are to be at the expense of the contractor, not the government. In a word, the seeds are to be furnished ready for mailing in packages of five or more packets each. All the work of putting up and distributing them is to be done in this city. There will be in round numbers 13,000,000 packets of vegetable seeds, 1,000,000 of flower seeds, 91,000 of tobacco, 23,000 of cotton, and 36,000 of lawn grass.

* * *

The Mexican ambassador, Senor Don Manuel Aspiroz, presented his credentials to President McKinley to-day. The formal expressions between the two were especially cordial, and each remarked with pleasure upon the existing friendly relations between the two powers. Both President McKinley and Ambassador Aspiroz spoke of the death of the late Minister Romero in feeling terms.

* * *

The President has pardoned Oscar Dawson, who was convicted in 1895 and sentenced to five years' imprisonment for robbing the postoffice at Salem, W. Va. The prisoner is in the last stages of consumption, and it is solely on this account that executive clemency is granted.

* * *

The Navy Department has formally ordered the publication of the advertisements for proposals for bids for the 24,000 tons of armor plate authorized under the naval appropriation bills of 1898 and 1899. The bids are to be opened May 31. The circular is being printed and will be made public in a few days.

* * *

Senator Carter, of Montana, was at the White House to-day and urged the President to visit the Yellowstone National Park during his summer vacation. The President has long had this trip in view, and if the public business will permit it is very probable he will arrange to make it some time in July or August.

* * *

The transport Logan, which sailed from Havana yesterday afternoon, with the One-hundred-and-sixty-first Indiana Regiment, had on board forty-five officers, 1,151 men, 14,300 pounds of baggage and ten private horses. The time between Havana and Savannah is forty-eight hours, which would bring the Indiana regiment into port about to-morrow night. It will be mustered out at Savannah or Augusta, probably the former place. It will require about three weeks' detention before the Indiana soldiers can return home.

* * *

Sergeant Andrew Steerstedter, Battery F, Third Artillery, now on furlough at De Pauw, is ordered honorably discharged. Private Joseph Philips, Company H, One-hundred-and-sixty-first Indiana, now at Rushville, is discharged. Private Charles H. Madden, Company C, One-hundred-and-sixty-first Indiana, was to-day honorably discharged.

* * *

The secretary of the interior has issued an order postponing for an indefinite period the sale of the pine timber lands on the Chippewa Indian reservation scheduled for the middle of May and also suspending the work of timber estimating on that reservation. This action is in line with the representations of the Indians that their interests in the proceeds from the lands would be better subserved by postponing the sale and stopping the estimating expense.

* * *

Consul Brush, at Clifton, informs the State Department that the Canadian government has decided to construct a telegraph line between Lake Bennett and Dawson City at once and that it is also decided to establish telegraph connections between British Columbia and the Yukon territory. He says the Dominion authorities regard the franchise for this telegraph line as too important from the standpoint of the national safety to permit it to go outside of government control.

* * *

Secretary Hay to-day received the following from Guatemala City, Guatemala: "Advised by the President of Honduras that no Americans have been condemned to death or are in peril there. The death penalty does not exist." The dispatch is from United States Consul Beaupere and relates to reports that Americans were to suffer death in Honduras.

* * *

Drury J. Tallant, of Great Falls, Mont., has been appointed an immigration inspector for service at Coutts, Canada. This appointment is made in accordance with the recommendation of the collector of customs at Great Falls, who states that an additional inspector is urgently needed to prevent the importation into this country of alien contract laborers.

* * *

Consul Diederich, at Magdeburg, reports to the State Department that on account of the great and ever increasing scarcity of farm laborers in Germany there is a growing demand for substantial, practical farming tools and machinery. He says that American manufacturers now have an excellent opportunity for an increased sale of their goods in that line if they will but make a thorough, systematic and businesslike effort. In his judgment the most effective way to sell American shoes and implements and wagons and machinery of all kinds in Germany would be to exhibit them there in public and to have their uses practically demonstrated by live agents.

* * *

Ambassador Cambon to-day delivered an autograph letter signed by President Loubet, of France, and directed to President McKinley, informing the latter of M. Loubet's election to the presidency of the French republic. This is a grateful personal compliment from one President to another, and permitted renewed assurances of good will between the two governments.

* * *

General Miles returned here to-night from his trip through New England.

* * *

The remains of General Flagler, chief of ordnance, United States army, who died at Old Point, Wednesday, were taken aboard a steamer for Washington, last evening, and will reach the capital this morning.

CRUISE OF THE RALEIGH

ONE OF ADMIRAL DEWEY'S WAR SHIPS RETURNING HOME.

Officers and Crew Given Enthusiastic Receptions at Every British Colonial Port—Saluted by Spaniards.

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FAYAL, Azores, March 30.—The United States cruiser Raleigh, Captain Joseph B. Coghlan, from Manila on Dec. 15, is coaling here, will coal at Bermuda on April 8, and expects to reach New York on April 15. The Raleigh has been having stormy weather on the Atlantic, but has been behaving splendidly and proves to be a good sea boat. All are well on board.

This is the first of Admiral Dewey's squadron of war ships to be bound for home. She has on board a number of men who belonged to the crew of the flagship Olympia. Many changes in the personnel of the Raleigh have been necessitated since the battle of Manila. She participated in all the movements about the Philippine islands, in the battle of Manila bay, the capture of the Corregidor forts, the capture of the gunboat Callao, the bombardment and capture of Subig, and the bombardment of Malate fort, forcing the surrender of Manila.

After leaving Manila on Dec. 15 the Raleigh stopped at Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said, Alexandria, Malta, Algiers and Gibraltar. In all the British colonies the officials of the British army and navy and the civilian population gave the American war ship an enthusiastic welcome, showing her officers and crew every form of courtesy. Dinners with American decorations and American national music were given to Captain Coghlan and his officers everywhere, in marked difference to the reception of the Raleigh on her outward passage two years ago. Governors, generals and admirals and other high officials all wished to visit and inspect the ship.

The Raleigh still has her war paint on. At Singapore she met a Spanish transport having on board troops and sailors from Manila. Although flying a war ship pennant, the Spanish ship lowered her colors and permission was granted to the Spaniards to visit the Raleigh, where they fraternized with the American sailors, who gave them much needed food and clothing. Many of the Spaniards showed the Americans wounds inflicted on them by the shells of the American fleet.

The quarantine from Bombay was waived at Aden. At the Island of Malta, in the Mediterranean, the Raleigh met the British Mediterranean fleet, consisting of ten battle ships and a number of cruisers. The British sailors extended a most cordial welcome to the Americans, and the sailors of the fleet and soldiers of the garrison entertained the crew of the Raleigh ashore, the best of feeling prevailing. During her stay at Malta the Raleigh was crowded with British red coats and blue jackets. The American officers were entertained at Cairo by United States Consul Harrison, and all the prominent British and Egyptian officials were present. The French at Algiers showed a marked difference. There was no reception, except from the British and American residents, although the French officials were polite.

At Gibraltar the crew of the Raleigh saw the Spanish fleet commanded by Admiral Camara. It consisted of six ships and was anchored across Algeciras bay. The Spanish fleet and the Raleigh sailed at the same hour and passed close to each other. The Raleigh hoisted the Spanish flag and saluted it. The salute was promptly returned by the Spanish admiral from his flagship, the Emperador Carlos V.

The Raleigh in two years has cruised 36,000 knots.

LOSS OF THE ROWENA LEE.

Only Five People Drowned Instead of Sixty, as First Reported.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 30.—Definite information was received at the general offices of the Lee line to-day regarding the nature of the steamboat disaster at Tyler, Mo., yesterday afternoon. It reached that office in the shape of a telephone message from its traveling freight agent, H. C. Lewis, who was on the Rowena Lee at the time she went down. Two lives are known to have been lost and one man is missing. Mrs. Chambers, of Caruthersville, Mo., and an unknown negro woman were drowned. The missing man is George Keuchler, mail clerk.

General Manager Robert E. Lee, of the Lee line, furnished the information regarding the casualties as soon as it reached his office. The message said that the boat left Tyler at 4 o'clock and in backing out from the landing to reach the middle of the channel struck some hidden obstruction, the nature of which was not known, and she began to sink rapidly. As soon as this fact became known the pilot changed the course of the boat and started back to the landing, but before it was reached she had settled down in thirty-five feet of water. All the passengers and crew were saved, excepting those whose names have been given. Mrs. Chambers took passage at Caruthersville for Memphis and was bound for some point in Mississippi. The passengers and crew were picked up by the steamer Ora Lee, which was turned back on advices from the agent at Caruthersville from Tiptonville, and a return to the last-named place was made with all possible speed.

Another version of the sinking of the Rowena Lee increases the casualty list to five. The drowned are: Mrs. Edna Chamberlain, passenger, Caruthersville; George Keuchler, mail clerk, Memphis; unknown chambermaid; two negro roustabouts. The boat was heavily loaded with cotton and railroad iron, had made a landing and was getting under way again when the wind caught her and blew her on the bank stern first. It is supposed the vessel struck a projecting log, tearing a hole in her hull. She began to sink immediately and was under water in two minutes. The passengers and crew jumped. Some were picked up by skiffs or swam ashore. Mrs. Chamberlain jumped on the river side and was never seen afterwards.

The Rowena Lee is a total loss. She cost $40,000 in 1893, and was insured for $15,000 with Louisville underwriters. The vessel ran in the Memphis and Cairo trade and was due to leave Memphis this afternoon for her return trip. Another boat was substituted and departed on schedule time.

Fur Seals Plenty This Year.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 30.—Fur-bearing seals have been unusually plentiful off the California coast during the past winter. The British sealer Geneva put into Monroe after a cruise of a little over two months off shore with 1,243 skins. The British schooner Merma'd sailed from Victoria with the Geneva and she was reported having good luck. The Zilla, May and Diana sailed from Victoria about a month ago, and three weeks after they were out they had an average of three hundred skins each. From all reports recently received the fleet of sealers is heading for Fort Ross, where they will provision and will put out for a cruise in the Bering sea.

Want Part of Their Father's Estate.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 30.—Suit has been brought at Falls City, Neb., to contest the will of the late Stephen B. Miles. The plaintiffs are Miles's two daughters. His two sons are the defendants. Miles in his early days was a "star router" and received large land grants along his route in Nebraska from the government. He died in 1897 worth over $3,000,000. The plaintiffs allege that the two sons, Joseph M. and Samuel, and the families of the two daughters, now deceased, were made joint heirs by the will, but that the sons divided between themselves the entire estate.

American Brewing Company's Bock Beer will be on draught in all saloons to-morrow.

ARMY COURT OF INQUIRY

MORE TESTIMONY CONCERNING CANNED ROAST AND FRESH BEEF.

Commissary Gampfer's Evidence as to Use of Chemicals Contradicted by an Armour Agent.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—There were two original witnesses before the army beef inquiry court to-day and two former witnesses were recalled. Lieut. Gampfer, who was commissary of subsistence at Lakeland, Fla., and Major Creighton Webb, who was on General Lawton's staff in Cuba, testified for the first time. Colonel Woodruff, of the commissary department, and Mr. Morehouse, the Tampa agent for Armour & Co., who superintended the supply of fresh beef to the troops at Lakeland, were then recalled. Major Webb's testimony dealt almost entirely with the canned roast beef, which he denounced as useless as an article of food. Lieut. Gampfer said a representative of the Armours, whom he took to be Mr. Morehouse, had told him that chemicals were used to preserve the beef. This Mr. Morehouse, when recalled, denied. To-morrow some of the medical officers who served in the Cuban campaign will be examined.

The first witness was George A. J. Gampfer, a clerk living in Cincinnati, O., who was a lieutenant in the First Ohio Cavalry during the Spanish war, occupying the position of regimental commissary while the troops were camped at Lakeland, Fla. For a time he occupied the position of brigade commissary. He described the manner of receiving the fresh beef at the depot and said it came in an ordinary express car wrapped in burlap bagging. Two or three total assignments or beef were rejected. He stated that much of the beef had been sour, acrid and bitter and emitted a disagreeable odor when the burlaps were removed. There were spots of a light greenish hue on the beef when the bags were removed, showing it to be tainted. Mr. Gampfer said that on one occasion when the agent for Armour & Co. was present his attention was called to the spots, and he replied that the beef was all right, "saying," said Mr. Gampfer, "the spots are due to the chemicals we put on the meat to preserve it, and prevent its spoiling within the sixty hours called for by the contract. This agent said that it was impossible to keep the beef in good condition for that length of time. He stated, however, that thereafter he would have the beef put up in tin boxes. This he did, but the meat continued to come with the spots on it."

REJECTED BEEF.

Mr. Gampfer then presented a memorandum kept by Captain Carmichael, his predecessor as brigade commissary, showing what meat had been rejected from the 1st to the 17th of August. This showed that the total consignment was rejected on the 5th, 6th and 7th of August; that 282 pounds were refused on the 2d of the month, and that no entries were made on two other days. On some occasions chunks were cut out of the meat and condemned. Mr. Gampfer thought Mr. Morehouse was the agent who had spoken of the use of chemicals. The conversation had taken place in the presence of Captain Carmichael (who afterwards committed suicide) and Dr. Castle. Mr. Gampfer had got the impression that some kind of a liquid composition had been used for glossing the meat over, but he had not given the matter much attention, as he supposed that if chemicals had been used they were harmless. Mr. Gampfer was then excused, subject to recall.

Major J. C. Creighton Webb, who was Gen. Lawton's inspector general, gave testimony concerning the meat issued in the Santiago campaign, referring especially to the canned roast beef. "It was not food," he said. "It was nonnutritive, stringy, fibrous and had no taste. It looked like the fag ends of beef steak. It was like opening your mouth and letting the moon shine in it. It was not satisfying; something we did not want and could not give away even to the Cuban troops, who preferred hard bread."

Major Webb said that he had tried to eat the beef occasionally when very hungry, but never received any satisfaction from it, except when vegetables were procurable, when it was used as hash to some advantage.

"You do not then regard it as a suitable ration for the army?"

"I do not," Major Webb replied; "it is a weight to carry and it is a waste of time to eat it."

Major Webb said he had found the refrigerator beef generally good, though some of it became putrid in the hot climate. He had never heard of embalmed beef until he returned north.

Col. C. A. Woodruff, purchasing officer of the commissary department at New York, was recalled. He said he had rejected some tenders of canned roast beef, but that he did not remember the names of the bidders in any such cases.

SHIPPED BACK FROM ENGLAND.

Colonel Woodruff stated that in one instance canned beef which had been shipped to Liverpool, England, was brought back to this country and sold for the use of the army. This purchase amounted to 350,000 pounds. The beef, as he understood it, had been stored in Armour's warehouse in Liverpool and had been sent abroad with the view of selling it to the British government. Colonel Woodruff had letters read from representatives of various firms engaged in canning beef, all saying that the beef sold to the army was of first-class quality and of the same quality as the beef shipped to foreign countries and sold to the Navy Department in large quantity. The witness said he had heard many complaints concerning this beef from officers returning from Cuba, but that one or two of them spoke favorably of it. He also said that a considerable quantity of the beef sent to Cuba had been returned to New York, and that he has tested it and found it to be in excellent condition and palatable food. On motion counsel, Colonel Woodruff asked permission to make a remark as the senior officer of the subsistence department, saying "whether it succeeded or not, the subsistence department was animated by a desire to do all it could for the benefit of the line of the army."

Mr. Morehouse, Mr. Armour's agent at Tampa, was then recalled. He said there had been two instances in which the entire proffer of meat had been rejected at Lakeland, and that on three or four other occasions a portion of the consignment had been refused. He recalled a visit to Lakeland early in August, when one consignment was rejected, and found, to his surprise, the beef lying on the platform. He had then had a conversation with Captain Carmichael, but he did not remember that there was any other person present except Lieutenant Bacon. He did not remember to have then seen or to have ever met Lieutenant Gampfer, who had testified that Mr. Morehouse had said that the meat had been treated to a chemical process for preservation. No questions had been addressed to him concerning the chemical preservation of the meat. He had never used any expression to any one to indicate that chemicals had been used. Cross-examined, Mr. Morehouse said he believed that the rejections would be more reliable, with the exception of dates, than the memorandum of a commissary officer of the army.

The Ohio Swelling Again.

CINCINNATI, O., March 30.—A flood is coming down the Ohio, but not a dangerous one. There is rising water between Wheeling and Parkersburg, also from Portsmouth to Louisville. At all other points on the upper Ohio above Portsmouth the river is falling. The rise between Parkersburg and Wheeling is the outpour of the Pittsburg rise. All tributaries above are falling. Here at 10 o'clock to-night the river is 48 feet and 11 inches, and is rising three inches an hour. It may reach 51 feet, which is one foot above the danger line, by Saturday.

Arrivals from Porto Rico.

NEW YORK, March 30.—Among the passengers of the transport Buford, which arrived to-day from San Juan, Ponce and Santiago, were Dr. Henry K. Carroll, special commissioner of the United States to Porto Rico; Captain Geary, Nineteenth Infantry; Capt. H. K. Bailey, Fifth Infantry; Dr. Quinton, of the medical corps; Second Lieut. Newbill, Seventh Artillery, and James A. Smith, editor of the St. Joseph (Mo.) News.

Cash Assets Only $5.

NEW YORK, March 30.—George E. D. Todd, of this city, has filed a petition in bankruptcy, with liabilities of $248,816, of which $158,688 are secured, and assets of $5 cash. He was a partner in the firm of L. C. Kig & Co., importers of merchandise and manufacturers of spirit varnish, which firm made an assignment on Feb. 7, 1898.

Gabriel, Nathan, Leo L. and Abraham Schwab, who compose the firm of G. Schwab & Brothers, formerly manufacturers of cloaks and jerseys, this city, under the style of the New York Novelty Company, filed a petition in bankruptcy to-day. Liabilities, $177,224; assets nominal.

E. BATES SOPER HANGED.

He Murdered His First Wife, Three Children and His Father.

HARRISONVILLE, Mo., March 30.—E. Bates Soper was hanged here to-day. He refused to have any spiritual consoler. Soper fell seven feet, breaking his neck. The execution was witnessed by forty persons. The crime for which he was executed was the murder of his wife and two daughters, aged four and six years. Soper ran a butcher shop. One day in April, 1891, he announced that he had learned that there was a "blind tiger," or an illicit saloon, in town and that he could not live in a place so wicked. He sold his shop and disappeared. Four days later neighbors broke into the Soper home and found the mother and children dead in bed. The heads of all had been crushed with an ax. Soper had left a note saying he could not properly support his family and that he believed they would be better off dead. Soper went to Portland, Ore., and, taking the name of Prentiss, married a respectable widow. In April, 1897, he deserted his second wife, taking their two-year-old child with him. He afterwards killed the child, choking it into insensibility and burying it alive. Later Soper, under the name of Homer Lee, leased and worked a small fruit farm near Ashland, Cal., where he was captured June 11, 1897. After being landed in jail here Soper confessed not only the killing of his wife and two children in Missouri and his child in Oregon, but admitted the murder, in 1890, of his father. According to his own story, on the evening of the last-named murder Soper started to attend a literary society meeting. On his way he met his father and shot and killed him. Throwing his revolver away, he proceeded to the meeting and took part in the exercises as though nothing had happened.

On Same Scaffold as His Father.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 30.—James Reed, aged twenty-two years, colored, was hanged to-day. Reed shot Mrs. Susie Blakesley to death in her home in a fit of jealousy. He died on the same scaffold on which his father, Martin Reed, died in 1894 for the murder of his wife and James Reed's mother.

NIKOLA TESLA AGAIN.

He Promises to Telegraph Across the Ocean Without Wires.

NEW YORK, March 30.—Nikola Tesla expressed his interest to-day in Sig. Marconi's achievement of telegraphing across the British channel without wires. Mr. Tesla avows his admiration temperately, however, because he expects in a short time to do more than the young Italian experimenter accomplished. Marconi has telegraphed thirty-two miles without wires. Tesla expects to telegraph three thousand miles.

"Mr. Marconi is heartily to be congratulated," said Mr. Tesla cordially. "He has demonstrated his unusual skill as an experimenter. An inventor, of course, he does not pretend to be. His work in wireless telegraphy is based wholly upon the researches of others, notably upon those of Professor Lodge, of England. Mr. Marconi, of course, also is familiar with my own work in this line. In 1893 I publicly expounded the principles which he applied in telegraphing from the South Foreland to Boulogne. There is nothing new in wireless telegraphy."

"How far do you expect to telegraph, Mr. Tesla?"

"From here to Europe," he replied. "Three thousand miles with absolute certitude."

"I cannot make public yet how I purpose to accomplish this. I can say, however, that I have remedied the fatal defect in the system which Mr. Marconi has used in his experiments. With his arrangements any sufficiently powerful electric force in the neighborhood of the conductor disturbs the signals and destroys absolutely the value of the whole system.

"The necessary thing is to protect these conductors from outside influences, to insulate them completely, as it were. I believe that I have done this."

The current issue of the Electrical Review contains the first elaborate description of Mr. Tesla's experiments in wireless transmission of electricity. They involve handling currents up to 8,000,000 volts produced by his perfected oscillators with entire safety. Photographs of the experiments actually performed make it appear that not only can the energy be transmitted in this manner, but also directed to any point desired, regardless of distance and environment.

BLACKSTONE TO RETIRE.

Will Surrender the Chicago & Alton Presidency on April 1.

CHICAGO, March 30.—Timothy B. Blackstone, president of the Chicago & Alton Railroad, took the decisive action to-day that cuts him loose after so many years from the executive control of the corporation. He forwarded to New York all his holdings of stock, preferred and common, for deposit with the United States Trust Company and at the same time tendered his resignation as director and president of the road, to take effect April 1. With this action he formally abandoned all thought of interposing obstacles to the reorganization of the system by the Eastern syndicate. Mr. Blackstone's stock goes into the keeping of the trust company in accordance with the original agreement between President John J. Mitchell, of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank, and the syndicate representing the Union Pacific, Missouri Pacific, Kansas & Texas and Baltimore & Ohio railroads. Under this agreement all stockholders have the privilege of depositing their stock at the price of $175 a share for common and $200 for preferred until April 1, 1899.

Mr. Blackstone said he had concluded to take this final step because his holding to his stock and opposing the reorganization plan might be construed that he meant to "squeeze" the purchasing syndicate and force them to pay him more for his stock than was paid other stockholders. He did not want to ask more for his stock, he said, than the other stockholders received. His aim had been to protect the minority stockholders who would not sell until he told them. He still thinks, however, the stock is worth more than the syndicate paid for it.

REINDEER TO CARRY MAILS.

Revenue Cutter Thetis to Go to Siberia for Fleet-Footed Animals.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 30.—The United States revenue cutter Thetis is to be fitted out for a cruise in the Okhotsk sea and along the coast of Siberia. The Postal Department proposes to use reindeer to carry the mails in Alaska, and it is for the purpose of securing the proper breed of these animals that the Thetis has been sent to the Arctic. Lieut. D. H. Jarvis, who went north to rescue the whalers, will go out as master of the Thetis, and with him will go Sheldon Jackson and probably Lee Williams, one of the best informed whaling captains in the Pacific.

Coal in the Aleutian Peninsula.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 30.—According to advices received from the Aleutian peninsula great beds of bituminous coal have been discovered near the port of Chignik bay.

OPPOSED BY DRUGGISTS.

Bill Compelling All Poisons to Be Put Up in a Patented Bottle.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 30.—Governor Roosevelt has been asked to-day to veto the bill now in his hands providing that no druggist can legally fill any poison or medical preparation containing poison, unless it be contained in a box or bottle, octagonal in shape and having impressed on it the emblem of a skull and crossbones. A violation of the act is made a misdemeanor. The passage of this bill has caused consternation in the drug trade. It is said to be part of a scheme to require all the druggists in the State to buy a medicine bottle, the design of which has been patented by residents of this State. This medicine bottle design exactly fits the language of the bill. No one else can take it, so that the company possessing the patent will have a profitable monopoly if the bill becomes a law. It is understood that the drug trade is fighting similar bills introduced in other legislatures.

SENATOR HOAR BITTER

ANOTHER ATTACK ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND ITS POLICY.

Blood of the Filipinos and Our Soldiers, He Says, Rests on Heads of Expansionists—Ten Points Made.

BOSTON, March 30.—A letter bearing the date of Feb. 4, and signed by one hundred or more of the most prominent men in and around this city, headed by ex-Governor George S. Boutwell, commending the attitude in Congress of Senator Hoar and inviting him to address them at a future date, was made public to-day. Accompanying it is the letter of acknowledgment from Senator Hoar, bearing date of yesterday, in which he says:

"I do not think there is any reason personal to me for holding such a public meeting. Undoubtedly there should be, and there will be, many public meetings the country over to protest against trampling under foot the rights of a brave people struggling for their liberties, the violations of the principles of our own Constitution and of the Declaration of Independence, and the continuation by the American people in the costly and ruinous path which has brought other republics to ruin and shame, which will dishonor labor, place intolerable burdens upon agriculture, and fasten on the Republic the shame of what President McKinley has so lately and so truthfully declared to be criminal aggression. But I think it will be wiser to have meetings of that character a little later rather than just now. We do not yet know whether the present war for the subjugation of the people of the Philippines is to continue indefinitely or whether there is to be a speedy submission to the overwhelming power of the United States. If the war shall shortly be ended we shall then be able to discuss the question of our national duty free from the disturbing influences which exist always when the country is at war. If, on the other hand, the war shall long and indefinitely continue, the people will begin to feel the burden of increased debt and increased taxation, the loss of life and health of our youth and the derangement of trade and peaceful industry."

After quoting some personal experiences growing out of his position, Senator Hoar says: "The blood of the slaughtered Filipinos, the blood and the wasted health and life of our own soldiers, is upon the heads of those who have undertaken to buy a people in the market like sheep or to treat them as lawful prize of war, to impose a government on them without their consent, and to trample under foot not only the people of the Philippine islands, but the principles upon which the American Republic itself rests."

Continuing, Senator Hoar refers to the pledges of the country towards Cuba and the President's declaration that any other conduct on our part would have been "criminal aggression," and continues: "The laws of righteousness and justice on which the great and free American people should act, and in the end, I am sure, will act, depends not on parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude or points of the compass, but is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. It is as true now as when our fathers declared it in 1776. It is as binding upon William McKinley to-day as it was upon George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. The only powers of government the American people can recognize are just powers, and those powers rest upon the consent of the governed. No man during this whole discussion has successfully challenged, and no man will successfully challenge:

"First—The affirmation that under the Constitution of the United States the acquisition of territory as of other property, is not a constitutional end, but only a means to a constitutional end, and that, while the making of new States and providing national defense are constitutional ends, so that we may acquire and hold territory for those purposes the governing of subject peoples is not a constitutional end, and that there is therefore no constitutional warrant for acquiring and holding territory for that purpose.

"Second—That to leave our own country to stand on foreign soil is in violation of the warnings of our fathers and of the farewell address of Washington.

"Third—That there was never a tropical country governed with any tolerable success without a system of contract labor.

"Fourth—The trade advantages of the Philippine Islands, if there be any, must be opened alike to all the world, and that our share of them will never begin to pay for cost of subjugating them by war, by holding them in subjection in peace.

"Fifth—That the military occupation of these tropical regions must be kept at an immense cost both to the souls and the bodies of our soldiers.

"Sixth—That the declaration as to Cuba by the President and Congress, applies with stronger force to the case of the Philippine Islands.

"Seventh—That Aguinaldo and his followers, before we began to make war upon them, had conquered their own territory and independence from Spain with the exception of a single city and were getting ready to establish a free constitution.

"Eighth—That while they are fighting for freedom and independence and the doctrines of our fathers, we are fighting for the principles that one people may control and govern another in spite of its resistance against its will.

"Ninth—That the language and argument of those who object to this war are, without change, the language and argument of Chatham, of Fox of Burke, of Barre, of Camden and of the English and American Whigs, and the language and argument of those who support it are the language and argument of George III, of Lord North, of Mansfield, of Wedderburn, of Johnson and of the English and American Tories.

"Tenth—No orator or newspaper or preacher, being a supporter of this policy of subjugation, dares repeat in speech or in print any of the great utterances for freedom of Washington, of Jefferson, of John Adams, of Abraham Lincoln or of Charles Sumner.

"The question the American people are now considering and with which they are about to deal, is not a question of a day, or of a year, or of an administration, or of a century. It is to affect and largely determine the whole future of the country. We can recover from a mistake in regard to other matters which have interested or divided the people, however important or serious—tariff and currency and revenue laws, even foreign wars—all these, as Thomas Jefferson said, 'are billows that will pass under the ship.' But if the Republic is to violate the law of its being, if it is to be converted into an empire, not only the direction of the voyage is to be changed, but the chart and the compass are to be thrown away. We have not as yet taken the irrevocable step. Before it is taken let the voice of the whole people be heard."

THE SCIPIO TO BE SOLD.

Mysterious Crewless Ship That Was Loaded with Munitions of War.

NEW YORK, March 30.—The Times says: "The steamer Scipio, a craft from nowhere, bound to nowhere, flying no flag, ownerless and crewless, is to be sold to the highest bidder at the Brooklyn navy yard by the United States government. A board has been appointed to examine the ship, which lies at the yard, and it will also determine how to dispose of her. The board will perform a similar duty with respect to the steamer Niagara, which is also at the Brooklyn yard. This was bought by the government from the Ward line during the Spanish war. At the outbreak of hostilities agents of this government were engaged in buying ships and war munition in England. The beginning of actual war found some of the deals incomplete. Great Britain being a neutral power, these incompleted deals could not be pushed through—that is to say, apparently not. Soon after the beginning of hostilities a steamship, in perfect trim from stem to stern, with furnace fires burning, steam up, but without a soul on board, was found adrift off the coast of Newfoundland—found by a United States ship, too, oddly enough. The crewless ship was the Scipio. She flew no flag, and there was not so much as a scrap of paper to be found aboard her to indicate where she sailed from, where she was sailing to, or who owned her. Here then was a mystery of the deep. The Scipio carried a cargo of coal, but never did such strange things come out of a cargo of coal as came from the depths of the anthracite piled in the hold. There were guns, fine, modern affairs of English make, Maxims, Hotchkiss cannon, field pieces and other ordnance, together with ammunition. Just how the Scipio came to be found adrift with such an opportune cargo by a United States ship has never been told—officially. The Scipio has been at the Brooklyn navy yard since she was picked up adrift on the high seas."

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STORMING A BLOCKHOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS MAN TELLS OF FIGHTING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

A Night Call to Arms and the Work of the First Colorado in Storming Filipino Blockhouse No. 5.

The following account of a day's fighting with the Filipinos about Manila early in February is sent to the Journal by Frank Tarkington Baker, nephew of Mr. W. S. H. Tarkington, of Indianapolis. Young Baker, whose life, up to a year or so ago, has been spent in this city, was in Colorado at the beginning of the Spanish-American war and enlisted in the First Colorado Infantry, going directly to Manila. He is now a corporal in that regiment. He wrtes:

It was a quiet Saturday night, the 4th of February. There was that calm and peace about it all that one will only find in far-off tropic climes or on the vast and boundless plains of our far West. I came out and sat for a long time looking up at the starry sky. There was scarcely a murmuring breeze, and certainly not a war-like sound in the city of Manila. I watched the officers passing to and fro, gayly enough dressed and absorbed in very worldly affairs. They were gathering for a dance at Major Anderson's quarters. At 8 o'clock I walked toward the show grounds—Warren's circus it is called—and purchased a seat. The audience was a large one composed almost entirely of officers and soldiers. As I watched the performance, it all made me a bit homesick—this coupled with the thoughts of the perfect night had before given rise to. The show was well on, everything moving in "quick time," and applause showed that Americans were appreciating American talent. I think it was near 9:45 when they brought out the apparatus for some trapeze work. The two performers had just entered the ring, and one was swinging herself to the netting. She never mounted an inch higher, for at that second there was a clatter of beating hoofs outside and in an instant a man came bounding into the ring, breathless with hard riding and excitement. There was absolute quiet for a moment. In that time I moved toward the door. Then came the alarm. "Men!" the messenger shouted, "to your quarters! The outpost is attacked!"

In an instant the canvas tent was cleared. Vehicles standing at the entrance, awaiting owners or chance patrons, were pressed into service. A group of Colorado men secured a conveyance and the Filipino driver never knew how he left the box. It was only a short distance to our quarters, and the little horse galloped faithfully until his load was discharged. There was a scene of preparation at the quarters. The officers, a half hour before engaged in the mazes of a Spanish fandango with Spanish partners, were frantically plunging into more suitable dress. The men were filling cartridge belts and looking to the extra ammunition they carried. Somewhere out on the front to our left there was terrific firing, volley firing and rapid firing, the sound of Springfields and of Mausers, and we knew from the reports that a battle was on. Now and then a bullet whistled through the upper story of our quarters. Across the street a scream of pain told us that a stray bullet had found a mark. Then came another cry, and we knew that another missile had struck home. Not a light was shown; quietly and in darkness we prepared for that night march to the front. The roll was called; "fours right march!" came the order; "column right!" and we were off.

The firing continued, still heavy and loud, and approaching nearer to the Colorado outpost. This latter lay a mile from our quarters and was the headquarters for other regiments as well, for it was fitted with a telegraph station. At this time, however, the wire refused to work; it had been either cut or shot in two. Clouds had overcast the sky and there was neither moon nor starlight to guide us. Stumbling along the Baile Baile road, unable to make out the form of the man ahead of us, our feet sinking into ruts and fumbling out again, we came finally to our former advanced position near Lampalve chapel and cemetery. Here we left the road and, striking off into the rice field, took up a position in front of the cemetery fence, distributed as skirmishers and ordered to keep a sharp lookout and to hold our fire until we saw something at which to shoot.

AN ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION.

I think it was near 11 o'clock when we arrived at this position. The firing had now moderated on our left and increased far to our right, toward Malate. Though we knew that the hill and woods ahead were alive with the enemy not a sound betrayed their position. I stumbled into the error after an hour or so of vigil of believing that the force supposed to be in our front had moved away either to our right or left. Of course, the blockhouse was ahead, some five hundred yards away and certainly a little force would remain, but, doubtless, the flanks of the enemy need reinforcements, and the Colorado men will face a bare field. As to the truth of that conclusion it was knocked sky-high at sunrise.

But a description of the ground is essential. To our right and off toward our front was the Baile Baile road, leading to a little village of that name some five hundred yards further ahead of our line. We lay to the left of this road in open order as skirmishers. For four hundred yards in front there stretched the "paddy" or rice field, bare and rough, and ending at the foot of a long, low ridge on the top of which the enemy were ensconced. To the left of us the field was not quite so bare; a few large trees formed a semicircle reaching midway across the opening from the Filipino hill. The hill was thickly covered with low undergrowths of bamboo, almost impenet